and Buyer-Seller meets for promotion of Mangoes in Hamburg, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Paris, London, etc. Simultaneusly, steps have been taken to reduce imports. Some of the steps taken in the recent past include: transference of some items of capital goods from the Open General Licence List to Licensable list; List attestation procedures has been streamlined for import of raw materials and components under OGL for the actual users engaged in the manufacture of Automobiles, Electronic items and consumer durables; import cut of 15% imposed on import entitlement of actual users engaged in the manufacture of Automobiles, electronic items and consumer durable. The 15% cut will be on the import of raw materials and components under OGL as well as against the Supplementary Licences.

Steps to improve foreign exchange position

460. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what steps have been taken to improve the foreign exchange position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): Steps have been taken to maintain and improve the foreign exchange reserves position by initiating a number of measures to promote exports and curtail inessential imports. Attempts are also being made to augment foreign exchange earnings through invisible earnings and capital inflows, including accelerated disbursement of external assistance.

Relief to fishing industry

461. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deep sea fishing industry has been recognised as a sick industry by Government;

(b) what are the details of the rehabilitation programme brought into force by SCICI and the Banking Department to revive the industry;

(c) whether it is a fact that the fishing industry is being asked to raise fresh capital for repayment to SCICI;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to announce a practical scheme of rehabilitation and relief for the fishing industry; and

(e) what are the reasons for not giving sufficient relief?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The Deep Sea Fishing Industry has not been recognised as a sick industry under the Sick Industrial Companies Act (Special Provision) Act, 1985. However, Government of India on the recommendation of SCICI is considering rehabilitation assistance to a number of Deep Sea Fishing Companies which are sick but are potentially viable subject to certain norms and para meters.

(b) to (e) The basis of rehabilitation assistance under consideration meets the major criteria of reasonable commitment on the part of the promoters, reasonable amount of monitoring controls and financial discipline and manageable financial burden on the companies in terms of servicing the outstanding debt and overdue interest.

Proposal for Excise Duty Reduction Under Textile Policy, 1985

462. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Policy, 1985 envisaged reduction in excise duties in a phased manner with a view to give relief to the consumers;

(b) whether it is a fact that a beginning was made in this direction during the Budget, 1988-89 but in the current

Budget a reversal has been made of this policy resulting in the suffering of common man;

(c) whether there is any relationship between the prices of the textile fibres and yarns and the retail prices of the synthetic/synthetic blended textile fabrics; and

(d) whether Government are considering review of the Textile Policy of 1985; if so, when the new policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The duties on man-made textiles were substantially reduced in 1985 and 1988. While the incidence of taxes was lowered, there have been complaints that the consumer did not get the corresponding benefit. In the budget for 1990-91 the duty structure has been revised keeping in mind the ability of different sectors to bear the additional burden. This would also help the competitiveness of the Handloom Sector where the dominant fibre is cotton.

(c) The retail prices of synthetic/ synthetic blended textile fabrics depend on a variety of factors which include prices of textile fibres and yarns, cost of various input, demand and supply position, fashion trend, distribution channel etc.

(d) The Committee which was appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain to review the progress of implementation of the Textile Policy of 1985 has submitted its report. This report is under consideration of the Government.

National Mineral Development Policy

463. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal for formulation of a National Mineral Development Policy;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and what progress has so far been made in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) The formulation of the National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals had been under consideration of Government. The policy document has since been finalised and approved by Government.

The policy document provides comprehensive policy frame-work for development of mineral resources of the country. Optimal use of available resources with scientific methods of mining, conservation and beneficiation, and economic utilisation constitute the essentials of the mineral policy. Emphasis has been laid on survey and exploration of strategic minerals and of minerals in which the country's resource position is just adequate or deficient, maintenance of national inventory of mineral resources, dissemination of information on technological changes, conservation as a positive concept through augmentation of resources and utilisation of low grade ore, recycling of scrap and waste materials, research and development to improve the competitive edge of national mining industry and adequate care for protection of environment and ecology. The assured supply of mineral based inputs to the user industries, avoidance of